

# **The Sto:lo Coast Salish Historical Atlas: Resource Information as the Foundation for Decision-making**

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## **Abstract**

The Sto:lo are the River People, a Coast Salish group that lives along the lower stretches of the Fraser River watershed in an area now called the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. The Sto:lo Coast Salish Historical atlas was created as a brilliant survey of the traditional territory of the Sto:lo First Nations people, including the lower Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver. This ground-breaking historical atlas, the first produced by a Canadian aboriginal organization, contains information about the history of a First Nations people and their homeland, and depicts in maps, archival photographs and words the mythic beginnings of the Sto:lo people and the effects of white settlement that turned their homeland into a major urban area.. Using material drawn from the larger Coast Salish region, the atlas covers southwestern British Columbia and northwestern Washington state, including metropolitan Vancouver. The atlas has three sections that deal with different themes derived from Sto:lo history, cosmology and the physical landscape of their homeland. The material which formed the basis of this atlas highlights significant changes that urbanization has had on watersheds, and the tools that the Sto:lo Nation have comprised in the compilation of this resource provide significant background materials for the consideration on planning and visioning tools.